Revision of text books

2892. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to review and revise text books especially of history and other social sciences and humanities so as to remove the objectionable material from these books; and

(b) what guidelines, if any, have been issued by the Central Government to the State Governments to undertake similar steps and to what extent these guidelines have been accepted and implemented by them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Government of India had through the National Council of Educational Research and Training initiated in 1981 a programme of evaluation of school textbooks to identify and eliminate materials and approaches which may directly or indirectly perpetuate communalism, casteism, regionalism, racialism. To begin with, this programme was confined to History textbooks and languages. It has been completed in almost all the States/Union Territories.

In 1985, in the second phase, States/Union Territories have been requested to undertake this programme in Geography, Civics, Sociology, Economics, etc. The programme is at various stages of implementation. The States/Union Territories have also been requested to have a bulletin system for continuous evaluation of textbooks as part of the system of textbook preperation and development.

At the University level, the University Grants Commission has issued guidelines to Universities for reviewing prescribed textbooks and other reading material in History and other subjects so that an unbiased and balanced interpretation of Indian History should emerge to strengthen the basic principles of unity and integrity and the secular character of the Indian society.

Government accommodation to railway employees

2893. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of employees working in the Department of Railways, including Zonal railways (zone wise) working for more than ten/fifteen/twenty years who have not been allotted Government accommodation/railway quarters so far;

(b) how many of them have their own houses at the place of posting and how many are having such accommodation on Power of Attorney basis; and

(c) whether Government propose to allot accommodation on priority basis to the employees, who neither own accommodation on ownership basis nor on Power of Attorney basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Medical Universities in the country

2894. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish Medical Universities in the country; and

(b) what are the names of the States having Medical Universities at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Medical Education Review Committee had recommended that the Central and State Governments should establish Universities of Health Sciences in order to bring about coordination between various educational and training institutions of the modern and various Indian Systems of Medicine, Nurses, Pharmacy, etc.